STYLES IN COATS.

Origin of the Cutaway Frock, the Sack and the Dress Coat.

The modern cutaway sprang from the body fitting justaucorps of the French as known to the courtiers of Louis XIV. and Louis XV., and the garment was in turn probably evolved from the frock or tunic worn in the fourteenth century.

The first trace of a cutaway in anything like its present form, says the Sartorial Art Journal, is seen in old prints of French military uniforms, early in the eighteenth century. For civilian use it was worn in England about 1785 as a riding coat, the tails being very long. In 1893 it was adopted in France for walking as well as for riding and was then in shape and cut much nearer the modern cutaway than any of its predecessors, though it was usually double breasted.

Early in the nineteenth century the cutaway had eight or nine buttons, only the fourth, fifth and sixth being used. This admitted of the wearer showing his neckcloth, fancy waistcoat and frilled shirt to the best advantage. Not till 1840 or thereabout did the cutaway become almost identical with the modern garment and since then the changes in its shape have been comparatively slight. In 1841 the word "cutaway" became a fixture in the language.

The old colonial uniform worn by Washington, with its flaps buttoned back; the coat worn by Nelson at the battles of St. Vincent, the Nile and Trafalgar, and the coat worn by Napoleon when on his way to St. Helena were all in a general way similar to the cutaway frock.

The conventional dress coat of our time is a refined younger brother, so to speak, of the cutaway frock, and for it we are indebted to the French, who on the other hand credit the English with originating the coat that has evolved into our double breasted frock. The coat last named was introduced into France by Montesquieu in the year 1750.

Incidentally, we may add, the present black dress coat has by the English speaking nations been restricted to evening wear little more than half a century. In some continental countries the dress coat is "proper form" for wear at court or other important formal assemblages held in the daytime.

The sack coat probably dates from the "Macaronies," who introduced it into England in 1772, though a garment somewhat similar was worn by the Roundheads of Cromwell's day.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

An elderly person is a mighty poor judge of a circus.

We don't blame the children. We have done worse than kick and scream to have our way.

The young hate work, but it is the last pride, the last joy of the aged, that they are able to do it.

Sometimes a hostess has this kind of misfortune: Her guests have such a good time they don't want to go home.

Be careful what you say to some people. [N. B.—On second thought we have decided not to use that word "some."]

When a man has a picture taken, for the first five weeks afterward he spends a great deal of time in taking surreptitious looks at it and wondering if every one else sees the good points in it so plain to his eyes.—Atchison Globe.

Minute Animal Life.

"The microscope teaches us," says a scientist, "that there are animals so wonderfully minute that if a thousand of them were ranked abreast they could easily swim, without being thrown out of order, through the eye of the finest cambric needle ever made. Yet each of the minute creatures is a highly organized number of particles, capable of moving about, of finding and devouring food and of behaving in all respects as becomes an animal as distinguished from a fragment of unorganized matter." The human mind is utterly incapable of realizing the structure of these little creatures and of fully appreciating their marvelous adaptation to the life they are destined to lead.

Varied Commencement Addresses.

An anxious inquirer was discussing with Bishop Prendergast the complex nature of some of his episcopal duties. "I should think you would find giving addresses at commencements particularly trying," said the inquirer questioningly. "I do," sighed the bishop. "How can you manage to find anything original to say year after year?" probed the inquirer, determined to get at the root of the matter. "Oh, I don't," said the bishop, his face lighting up and expanding into a whimsical smile. "I don't say anything original. Each time I simply use different adjectives."—Philadelphia Record.

Their Special Favorites.

She—I am so fond of trees! The oak is my favorite. It is so strong, so noble! Which do you like the best? He (promptly)—Yew.—Judge.

May Weddings.

May weddings are supposed by many persons to be unlucky. It is a heritage from the ancient Romans. A May bride, says Ovid, is short lived, his explanation being that the month included the celebration of the Lemuria in honor of the dead. Apart from any evil omen, such a time of mourning would interfere with the bathing and toilet arrangements that were proper preliminaries to weddings. Plutarch suggests that, as April was the month of Venus and June that of Juno, to select May was to slight those nuptial goddesses and that June, as the month of the young (juniores), was preferable to May, the month of the old (majores). Ovid's "Mense malas maio nubere vulgus ait" (there is a popular saying that wicked women wed in May) was inscribed on the gate of Holyrood when Mary, queen of Scots, married Bothwell in May, 1567. What followed strengthened Scottish belief in May's unluckiness.

The Term "Crony."

Every one uses the term "crony" in the sense of "chum" or "pal," and the phrase "old cronies" has become specially familiar, but it is doubtful whether the original word bore any reference to friendship. The new English dictionary puts down its origin to academic slang and quotes the immortal Pepys for the earliest instances of its use. Quite recently, however, an old letter of a still earlier date has come to light, in which a scholar is described as "content to destroy his body with night labors and everlasting study to overtake his chronyes and contemporaries." From this it would seem clear that the word was a bit of university jargon, used to denote students of the same date and coined from the Greek word that appears in the terms "chronology," "chronometer," "chronograph," that are connected with time.

Sheridan's Trap.

Any interruption while he was making a speech always caused Richard Brinsley Sheridan considerable annoyance. On one occasion the dramatist showed his displeasure of a fellow member of the house of commons who kept crying out "Hear, hear" every few minutes. During a certain debate Sheridan took occasion to describe a political contemporary who wished to play rogue, but had only sense enough to act fool. "Where," exclaimed he, with great emphasis—"where shall we find a more foolish knave or a more knavish fool than he?"

"Hear, hear," was shouted by the troublesome member.

Sheridan turned and, thanking the honorable member for the prompt information, sat down amid a general roar of laughter.

Tactful.

Mrs. John Sherwood was as famous for her exquisite nature as for her fine style. At a dinner one night at the time when her novel "The Transplanted Rose" was having a wide circulation her neighbor turned and asked in perfect good faith the almost incredible question, "Mrs. Sherwood, do you know who wrote 'The Transplanted Rose?'"

"It sounds as though it might be Hardy," laughed the gifted woman without a trace of ill nature.—Woman's Home Companion.

Man's Unreasonableness

Is often as great as woman's. But Thos. S. Austin, manager of The Republican of Leavenworth, Ind., was not unreasonable, when he refused to allow the doctors to operate on his wife for female trouble. "Instead," he says, "we concluded to try Electric Bitters. My wife was then so sick she could hardly leave her bed, and five (5) physicians had failed to relieve her. After taking Electric Bitters she was perfectly cured, and can now perform all her household duties." Guaranteed by all druggists. Price 50c.